

## Council's Budget Would Increase Property Tax Rate by Two Cents

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council quietly and doggedly went through a list of budget issues at its final budget worksession on May 17, reached tentative decisions one by one and wound up with a council budget package to be reconsidered at a public hearing on Monday, May 24 and adopted on June 7. The new budget calls for a two-cent increase in the property tax rate. City Manager Michael McLaughlin estimated that this would increase the tax bill on a previously assessed \$180,000 home by about \$140.

Until final adoption, any decision by the council can be changed. If the decision-making process which occurred at the worksession is any indication, further changes are possible as the positions of four councilmembers went back and forth as good arguments were made for or against a particular item. Holding steadfast for the most part, however, was Councilmember Rodney Robertss who opposed most additions to the budget in an effort to avoid a tax rate increase.

But increase the budget council did. In fact, not one single item proposed by McLaughlin and the city staff was cut except for a reserve budget of \$100,000 to be used for unforeseen contingencies but apparently made available for the council to have some extra funds to play with. Council added 17 items to the budget, increasing the total by \$405,400, cutting the reserve by \$64,300 to bring the total budget for the general fund (the principal operating fund for city expenditures) to \$19,067,300.

To offset the increased expenditures, council increased revenues other than property taxes by \$202,000, of which \$100,000 is to be realized from increased code enforcement inspection fees for rental properties and \$62,000 as a result of notification that the city can expect to receive increased highway user shared revenues from the state. Each one-cent added to the tax rate is expected to bring in \$135,400 in revenue.

### Issues

Council reached its decisions without rancor. Roberts, once he

said his piece, stayed quiet for the most part, realizing that he was outvoted. Neither of the two new councilmembers, Leta Mach or Konrad Herling, put forth their opinions so strongly as to stir up the passions of other councilmembers as was so often the case in prior years with long-time Councilmember Thomas White. Consequently, those in the audience and those watching at home on cable TV who enjoy a good councilmanic fight were disappointed.

Probably the most contentious issue was funding for a red light camera that staff for the last three years has proposed be removed. The camera in question has not brought in revenues from fines sufficient to pay for its cost of operation, unlike other cameras operated by the city. Whether this poor revenue showing is because the camera has effectively reduced violations as Roberts contended, or because traffic is so jammed up at the intersection that it prevents violations from occurring, as Mayor Judith Davis

See **BUDGET**, page 6

## City Council Endorses Post Office Plan for Greenbelt East Location

by Barbara Hopkins

The Greenbelt City Council voted unanimously at its May 10 meeting to follow staff recommendations to support the construction of a full-service postal facility at Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive in Greenbelt East. The USPS was asked to pursue an agreement with an existing business for a Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in Roosevelt Center. The CPU would provide most of the services commonly sought at a full-service facility. Post office boxes, however, and the distribution center would be located at the Greenbelt East site.

### Post Office Options

The vote followed years of negotiations to obtain the site on Ora Glen Drive and to clear covenants that would have prevented its use by the post office, the city sought retention of a retail postal facility at the post office's current location in Roosevelt Center. At a meeting on April 26, Timothy Haney, district manager for the Capital District of the USPS, told council that funding had been approved to construct the new facility but that USPS officials had determined that budget considerations would prevent the operation of two facilities within such a small area.

At that meeting, Haney offered council two choices: a full-

service facility at the new site or retail operations at the current site with carrier and operational functions at the new site. He also presented the possibility of establishing a CPU providing retail services at a business in Roosevelt Center if the full-service facility were located at the new site. He said the USPS would provide guidance and publicity materials for a center business to contract for and operate the CPU. Details would have to be worked out with owners of any interested businesses.

### Public Input

Dorothy Bates, chair of the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative board of directors, attended the meeting with several other board

members. Bates said the Co-op board considers the retail post office "connected to the health" of Roosevelt Center and wishes to see it remain there. The board thinks all merchants will feel an impact if the post office moves, she continued, and considers it the "ethos of the city" to have services in the city center. The Co-op could not afford to do the remodeling required for a CPU. However, she said, it was her understanding that the postal service would not fund it either. Mayor Judith Davis told her the USPS would have to discuss the specifics of any agreement with the business hosting

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

## Cicadas – Hear Here!



**"You can learn a lot from a child." Riah loves her new cicada friends. Dad is proud but mom . . . shudders. Riah loves chasing her mom and older sister around the yard, claiming, "They only want to be our friends." Riah lives on Southway.**

## Museum Opens New Show; Talk on Women's Sports

by Katie Scott-Childress and Jill St. John

The Greenbelt Museum opens a new exhibit on Friday, May 21 titled "Living the Healthy Life: Sports, Health and Fitness During the New Deal Era." The exhibit explores the extraordinary changes in fitness and body image that occurred in the 1930s and 1940s. These changes stemmed from government intervention in public health, the emergence of talented black and female athletes, fitness celebrities such as Jack La Laine, weight charts and penny scales.

Beginning in the 1930s especially, Americans became preoccupied with their weight with the rise of the penny scale and prescriptive charts announcing "What You Should Weigh." Weight charts led women, previously concerned mostly with their figures' proportions, to consider weight as a major beauty factor. The museum exhibit includes a restored penny scale where visitors will learn their "weight and fate," as one dial offers a correct weight and another reveals one's fortune.

The federal government became involved with Americans' fitness and health during the New Deal era through legislation and nutritional guidance. Ineffective and dangerous patent medicines became a thing of the past in 1938 with passage of the landmark Federal Food, Drug

and Cosmetic Act. This Act for the first time required drug makers to prove their drug's safety before it could be sold to an unwary public. In 1941 the government published nutritional guidelines for a "Recommended Daily Allowance" and promoted portions based on a "basic seven" food grouping. The U.S.D.A.'s nutritional guidelines also carried a moral imperative for women, who were charged with feeding their families healthfully.

The rise of professional athletes such as Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson and Babe Didrickson allowed youngsters from both sides of the color and gender line to aspire to athletic fame. And fitness gurus such as Jack La Laine and Charles Atlas transformed the previously grotesque image of the body builder to a norm all could aspire to.

### Health in Greenbelt

Government social scientists thoroughly planned for the health and fitness needs of Greenbelt's residents. Greenbelt's team of well-known planners ensured that the residents of this utopian town would be healthy by providing amenities previously only known to the rich. The physical layout of Greenbelt gave adults and chil-

See **MUSEUM**, page 9

### What Goes On

#### Monday, May 25

**8 p.m.,** Regular Council Meeting/Public Hearing on Budget and Constant Yield Tax Rate, Municipal Building (Live on Channel 71)

#### Wednesday, May 26

**8 p.m.,** Council Worksession, Roosevelt Center Merchants (Stakeholders), Community Center

#### Thursday, May 27

**7:15 p.m.,** Public Meeting on Towing, Greenbelt's Public Safety Advisory Committee, Springhill Lake Elementary School

**7:30 p.m.,** GHI Board Meeting, GHI Board Room

**Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day Observed**

City Offices Closed



# Letters to the Editor

## Define Cooperative Open Letter to GHI:

I was inspected by the beautification rep yesterday. To those who know me in Greenbelt they know that there are few people in Greenbelt who work harder in their yard than I do. Instead of recognizing a supreme effort in my yard – take the time to look and see – the card indicates a few minute deficiencies, which of course I'll correct, but no mention of my six weeks of work.

Someone needs to look up the meaning of "cooperative." If the aim of the program is to alienate those who work hard in their yard, it is succeeding with flying colors.

To me the approach to the program and the goals should be reconsidered. Always recognize effort. Whoever is implementing the program needs a course in public relations.

Gordon L. Nutwell

## Kudos to News Review

I just wanted to thank the person(s) who have/has been doing the ad for P&G's Old Greenbelt Theatre.

From the "Passion of the Christ" ad that changed twice before publication through our latest ads for two films per week with a mixing of the times and the free first Saturday shows thrown in, you all have been letter perfect each and every time.

So thank you very much for your faultless service for the past several months.

Bob Haupt  
"Film Winder"

## Around the Traffic Circle Issue Again

Hanover Parkway is the main thoroughfare between Greenbelt and Good Luck roads. This means that vehicles have the right of way on Hanover Parkway, not cars on the side streets. There is only one way in and one way out of their apartment complexes and that is the side streets connecting to Hanover Parkway.

Those cars don't have a prayer of being able to turn left or right until the constant flow of traffic on Hanover Parkway stops. The circles provide the side street vehicles the opportunity to make their respective turns in a timely manner so that they too can get to their destinations. This is the reason why speed bumps would not have been the answer to help all traffic going in all directions to flow smoothly.

I agree with the author of the letter about "No More Traffic Circles" in that "50 percent of

the cars approaching the circle do not understand the right-of-way rules associated with the circle." Why do they not understand? There is a yellow sign before you get to the circle that shows a circle ahead, another red and white sign that says "yield" and a white sign below the red one that says "to traffic in circle." If people do not know how to read signs, why are they driving other than to cause accidents?

This is probably why there are police cars by Schrom Park to watch for people who are not following the signs.

Gail Phillips

## THANKS

My international daughters and I would like to thank Judy Bell and the Greenbelt News Review for the write-up about our reunion in Poland last month. Also we would like to thank Magda and her parents, Jola and Wojtek Pasztaleniec, sister Ewa Pasztaleniec, niece Madzia and Witek Kowalski for all the planning and hard work to make this vacation so wonderful. It was truly the vacation of a lifetime and we couldn't have done it without them!

Linda Curtis

## Grief Support Group Offered

Hospice of Chesapeake's Spiritual and Bereavement Care Center is offering a six-week support group for people 18 years and older who are grieving the death of a loved one.

The group provides an opportunity to share with others who have experienced a similar loss and strategies for coping with the emotions that accompany such a loss. The six-week group meets on Thursdays from June 3 to July 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Hospice of the Chesapeake, 8724 Jericho City Drive, Landover.

Call 301-459-4500 to register. Registration is free to those whose loved one was cared for by Hospice of Chesapeake and a nominal fee for members of the community.

## Wildflower Lecture At Botanic Gardens

A slide lecture, "Celebrating American Wildflowers," will be presented on Friday, May 28 from noon to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Botanic Garden. This event is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, call 202-226-4082 or visit [www.usbg.gov/education/events](http://www.usbg.gov/education/events).

## SHA Announces Beltway Repaving

The Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) is beginning a \$9 million project to resurface a 3-½ mile portion of I-95/I-495 (the Capital Beltway) between MD 295 (B-W Parkway) and US 50 (John Hanson Highway) in Prince George's County. This is another step in a series of improvements designed to provide a smoother road surface following years of harsh winter weather. Weather permitting, the project will be completed by fall 2004.

This project includes the ramps to westbound US 50 and the New Carrollton train station (Exit 19B) located at the US 50 Interchange and the replacement of the concrete barrier wall that separates northbound and southbound I-95/I-495.

During resurfacing, single lane closures along I-95/I-495 will occur between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., Monday through Friday. Night-time double lane closures may occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. Variable Message Signs (VMS), arrow panels, drums and concrete barriers will guide motorists through the work zone. Motorists should expect major delays and seek alternate routes.

SHA awarded the contract to Francis O. Day Company of Rockville. SHA and the contractor remind all drivers to plan for extra travel time and use caution while driving through highway work zones.

Citizens who have questions about traffic operations on I-95/I-495, US 50 or other state numbered routes in Prince George's County may call SHA's District Office 3 at 301-513-7300 or toll free at 1-800-749-0737.

## Orchids Discussed At Garden Club

Beltville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville. The speaker for this month is Robert Griesbach, Ph.D., a research geneticist with the floral and nursery plant research unit of the U.S. National Arboretum. Griesbach's topic will be "What is an Orchid." Refreshments and door prizes will follow the meeting. Admission is free and the public is invited.

For information contact Louise DeJames at 301-890-4733 or visit [www.beltvillegardenclub.org](http://www.beltvillegardenclub.org).

## The Old Curmudgeon



"Remember . . . beauty lies in the eye of the beholder!"

## Volunteers Needed To Plant Gardens

Darnall's Chance House Museum in Upper Marlboro is seeking volunteers from May through October, five to 10 hours a week, Monday through Friday to assist in garden design and upkeep. Volunteer gardeners are also needed to work in the greenhouses at Randall Farm, the Old Maryland Farm and Patuxent River Park in Upper Marlboro (Croom area) and at the Clearwater Nature Center in Clinton. Schedules vary with need. For more information contact the Volunteer Services Office at 301-249-7208; TTY 301-699-2544.

## Back Pain and Care Hospital Talk Topic

Eight out of every ten people will suffer from back pain at some time in their lives. For the lucky ones, relief is accomplished by a period of rest. Washington Adventist Hospital, 7600 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, will conduct a free back care seminar on Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. Professionals will cover the anatomy of the back, causes of back pain, ways to prevent back injuries and knowing when to seek professional help. Advance registration is required. Call 1-800-542-5096.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Oberg, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Judy Bell, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Eileen Farnham, Marat Moore and Pat Davis.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA MEETING OF THE GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 27, 2004, 7:30 p.m.  
GHI Board Room

#### Key Agenda Items

- Designation of GDC Stockholders
- Set Summer Meeting Schedule
- Exception for Sun Room – 8Q Laurel Hill Road
- Rules Regarding Vinyl Shed
- Underground Utility Contract – 1st Reading
- Pipe Lining Contract – 62A & B Crescent – 1st Reading
- Approval of Solera Mortgage as a Lender (formerly Grayhawk)
- Baseboard Heaters vs. Fan-Forced Wall Heaters

Regular board meetings are open to members.

### OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

#### Week of May 21

#### MONSIEUR IBRAHIM (R)

Friday  
\*5:25, 7:30, 9:35

Saturday  
\*3:20, \*5:25, 7:30, 9:35

Sunday  
\*3:20, \*5:25, 7:30

Monday - Thursday  
\*5:25, 7:30

\*These shows at \$5.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745  
129 Centerway  
[www.pgtheatres.com](http://www.pgtheatres.com)



# Community Events

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald  
The Golden Age Club opened in regular form on May 12 with Shep Odom giving the invocation. We're very grateful to Shep for the simple, heartfelt invocations and inspirational poems he presents. In our world today, a bit of prayer is helpful.

The trip to Atlantic City will be on August 5 not August 7 as stated last week. There is still time to sign up for the trip to Hershey, Pa. on June 17 and to Hanover, Pa. on July 8.

Items are needed for the Chinese auction on May 26. This is a fund raiser for the club and should be fun.

Elaine Dann, Weight Watchers leader, spoke at the meeting. Her topic was "Healthy Weight for Seniors" and she was very impressed with all the Golden Age Club seniors who are active and in good shape. Robert Terrell won the cookbook Dann raffled off.

The 50/50 winners were Bill Souser and Harold Miller.

See you at the meetings on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the multi-purpose room at the Community Center.

## Opportunity to Air Towing Problems

Had a towing problem? Let your voice be heard. Greenbelt's Public Safety Advisory Committee is sponsoring a public meeting on May 27 at 7:15 p.m. in the multipurpose room of Springhill Lake Elementary School. This is an opportunity for citizens to address concerns with towing problems.

## Park Volunteer Day

Come join a park ranger and neighbors help the environment and clean the park border. Meet at the Ranger Station near the campground on Saturday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Large groups should call ahead.

Greenbelt Park's entrance is located between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at 6565 Greenbelt Road.

For more information call Greenbelt Park at 301-344-3944 or visit the park's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/gree>.

## At the Library Daytime Storytimes

Tuesday, May 25, 10:30 a.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 18 months with caregiver – limit 15 children.

Wednesday, May 26, 10:30 a.m., Toddler Time for ages 18 to 36 months with caregiver – limit 15 children.

Thursday, May 27, 10:30 a.m., Drop-In Storytime for ages 3 to 5 – limit 25 children.

## G SWAT New Name For Skateboarders

The Greenbelt Skateboarders met on May 13 and decided on a name for the group – G SWAT – which stands for "Greenbelt Skateboards Wheels and Trucks." (For those who don't know, the trucks on a skateboard are underneath bars, which hold the wheels.)

G SWAT has filed for tax exempt status. Anyone wishing to make a donation to support initiatives, such as the sale of T-shirts, silent auctions, concerts, ice cream socials or any other plan to add funds for the skateboard park, may do so and receive a tax write-off.

The next G SWAT meeting will be held on May 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church Fellowship Hall.

G SWAT plans to keep people informed about all activities in the future such as fundraising and other matters concerning skateboarding in Greenbelt.

## GMA Meets Saturday

Greenbelt Moving Ahead Program (GMA) will have its last meeting on Saturday, May 22 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The GMA program will start again in September at the beginning of the fall school semester. The exact date will be noted in a future News Review article.

## Craze to Speak To Lions Club

James Craze, Greenbelt's police chief, will speak to the Lions Club at its next meeting on Tuesday, May 25 at the American Legion. Dinner will begin at 6:44 p.m. The public is invited to hear the speaker at 7:15 p.m. Call 301-474-5156 for reservations.

## Fresh Waffle Sundae For Charity Donation

The aroma of fresh baked waffle bowls is sure to draw a crowd for Greenbriar's ice cream social on Saturday, May 29. All are invited to gather in the picnic area behind Greenbriar's Community Building at 7600 Hanover Parkway from noon to 2 p.m.

Fill a waffle bowl with the homemade ice cream of Flutes Gourmet and drench it in the toppings of choice. The cost of a sundae is the donation of a new school supply or a nominal fee, both to benefit Prince George's County children in transitional housing.

## Labor Day Festival Marks Fiftieth Year

This year the Labor Day Festival Committee will be presenting the 50th annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. As part of the ceremonies to mark this event, the Committee will provide displays of items associated with the Festival. This will include the use of the display window of the Greenbelt branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library during June.

People who believe they have something that should be shown and offered for display should contact Wayne Williams at 301-474-1259. Memorabilia from 1955 is particularly wanted.

## City Notes

The week of May 10, the Public Works Department completed painting stop lines and crosswalk lines in Greenspring I and II. Also completed was the painting of yellow curbs throughout Springhill Lake.

The streets crew supervised the asphalt contractor at the Braden tennis courts. Asphalt work on courts 5, 6, 7 and 8 is completed. The fence will soon be installed and color coating will be done within the next two weeks.

The horticulture crew removed pansies and cleaned the beds at the entrance to the lake park, the entrance to Boxwood and the city office. The crew also planted 618 summer annuals at the city office, 162 at the entrance to Boxwood, 462 at the lake entrance and organized material for the plant sale.

The parks crew continues installation of new playground equipment at Schrom Hills Park, completing installation of the climber and fire truck. The swing set has been cemented in place and delivery received of 200 cubic yards of wood carpet. The crew also continues work on the retaining wall in the grassy area between the Community Center and the Youth Center.

CAR WASH

Exxon Station

Greenbelt Rd. & Hanover Pkwy.

Sat., May 22, 10am-2pm

Support Cub Scouts Pack 202 Summer Campout in June

## Greenbelt Baseball

Major League Schedule		
Date	Time	Games
Mon., May 24	6:00 p.m.	Athletics vs. Cardinals
Tues., May 25	6:00 p.m.	Lions vs. Giants
Wed., May 26	6:00 p.m.	Orioles vs. Cubs
Thur., May 27	6:00 p.m.	Tigers vs. Indians
Fri., May 28	6:00 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Lions
Fri., May 28	7:00 p.m.*	Cubs vs. Giants
Sat., May 29	10:00 a.m.	Orioles vs. Athletics
Sat., May 29	1:00 p.m.	Make up game

Major League Standings as of Tuesday 5/18/04				
American League		W-L	National League	W-L
Giants		7 - 0	Lions	5 - 1
Tigers		4 - 2	Cardinals	6 - 2
Athletics		2 - 6	Cubs	3 - 5
Orioles		1 - 5	Indians	1 - 8

2004 Machine Pitch Schedule		
Date	Time	Visitor vs. Home
Mon., May 24	6:00 p.m.**	Mets vs. Phillies
Wed., May 26	6:00 p.m.**	Marlins vs. Mets
Fri., May 28	6:00 p.m.**	Phillies vs. Marlins

All games are played at McDonald Field unless noted. \*This game will be played at Braden #2. \*\*These games will be played at Braden #3.

REGISTER NOW

2004 MISS GREENBELT SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

\$2000 Savings Bond Awarded 2004 Miss Greenbelt!!

Miss Greenbelt Pageant, Ages 14-19

Junior Miss Greenbelt, Ages 11-13

Little Miss Greenbelt, Ages 7-10

Make New Friends - Learn New Skills

Scholarship, Prizes, Awards, Professional Photo Session, Television Appearances, Make-up and Modeling Sessions

Only 6 Rehearsals – All on Thursday Nights

Website: [www.missgreenbelt.com](http://www.missgreenbelt.com)

Call Natasha Jewell at (301) 352-8665 or Kathy Patsas at (301) 513-7759 to register or for more information.

## Dance to America's Music '40s, '50s Big Band

Fridays: May 28 and June 25  
Free Dance Instructions 7 - 8 pm  
Given by BallroomDanceCompany.org

8:30 pm to Midnight  
\$12 per person  
\$10 per person Am. Legion Member (must show card)

Live music by the  
Frankie Condon 18-piece orchestra  
Vocals by Christina Crerar

American Legion Post 136,  
6900 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD  
301-439-4019 or 301-345-0136

## Enjoy Swimming?! The Greenbelt Swim Team Needs You!

Come join us . . . Make new friends . . .  
Improve your strokes and endurance . . . Learn to fly! Butterfly, that is!

The Greenbelt Swim Team's 2004 Summer season runs from June 1 to July 24

Walk-in registration will be held on May 26 and 27, 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Aquatic Center. Fees are \$35 per swimmer until May 27. Registrations received after May 27 will cost \$40 per swimmer. There is a \$50 volunteer fee per family which will be returned when earned.

Swimmers practice June 1-22 in the afternoons and June 23-July 15 in the mornings.

Information and applications can be found at  
[www.greenbelt.com/swimteam](http://www.greenbelt.com/swimteam) or at the GMST bulletin board  
in the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center,  
101 Centerway in Old Greenbelt.

For any questions, call Deborah Taylor at 301-345-2485 or Leslie Hilliard at 301-474-7504.

## Greenbriar Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 22nd  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
\*\* RAIN OR SHINE\*\*  
7600 Hanover Pkwy.  
301-441-1096

AT LEAST 20 VENDORS!

## Community Health Fair

at  
Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church  
June 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mobile Health Unit Screenings  
\$25 & up

Diabetes, cholesterol, bone density,  
blood pressure and others  
Free lectures on stress, nutrition,  
dance, estate planning.

Door Prizes!



# Local Luthier, Bob Shade, Is Featured in “Vintage Guitar”

by Eileen Peterson

It takes three to four weeks for local luthier (guitar builder) Bob Shade to turn a piece of basswood, bought at a lumber yard, into a Hallmark guitar.

With a band saw and a spoke shaver, Shade creates an instrument of beauty and quality sound with his own custom-designed tailpiece and pickups. He sells under a name which, in the 1960s, became best known for its swept-wing design. Shade now owns the rights to the name and designs.

“Hallmark guitars were played by such well-known groups as the ‘Mamas and the Papas,’ ‘The Doors,’ ‘The Association’ and ‘Jefferson Airplane,’” says Shade.

Besides basswood (which he likes because it is light and resonates well), Shade works with maple, rosewood, mahogany, swamp ash and ebony in his Greenbelt workshop.

### Media Attention

Shade is featured in an extensive article in the June 2004 issue of “Vintage Guitar Magazine.” It chronicles the historic Hallmark line and Shade’s mastering of the guitar-building techniques at a high level.

“A master luthier,” Bill Gruggett, an associate of Hallmark founder Joe Hall, says of Shade, with whom he now works.

Shade works with two designs: Swept Wing and Stradette. So far Shade has built guitars for long-time friend Marty Friedman, for years lead guitarist for the band “Megadeth,” and for Buddy Dughi and wife of “Hot Rod Trio” and for Deke Dickerson. The legendary rockabilly revivalist ordered a double-neck Swept Wing six-string bass and six-string guitar, in gold sparkle. Then he asked for his name inlaid on a fingerboard that lights up. “I pulled it off and he got it just in time for the NAMM show (National Association of Musical Manufacturers) which is the largest guitar event each year,” Shade said.

He has a production line of Hallmark guitars and has sold a bass and guitar to C.J. Ramone (of “The Ramones” fame) for his coming South American tour with the band “Bad Chopper.”

Boy Boorer of England will play one of Shade’s guitars on the “Craig Kilborn Show” daily next week. He has also sold to



Savanah (left) and sister Miranda hold their father’s production-line guitars, while Bob Shade display one of his signature guitars.

Greenbelt musicians.

### Local Show

From June 2 to 9, Shade will be in Towson for a World Guitar Congress featuring custom and production models of guitars on exhibit, as well as clinics and live performances by such musicians as Friedman, Dick Dale and Eric Johnson and many others. Les Paul is chairman of the event, which is free and open to the public. For information visit [www.towson.edu/worldmusiccongress](http://www.towson.edu/worldmusiccongress).

### Always Music

A musician since childhood, Shade finally chose the drums at age 11 and was playing, while in middle-school, with a rock band of high-school graduates. He played, after 1982, in a band called “Darius” (with Ed Day, a recent Greenbelter) and in a band called “Hawaii” that played Hammerjacks in Baltimore and opened for the band “ELP” at the Capital Centre in Landover.

After a brief stay in California, the Hyattsville native moved to Greenbelt and opened Greenbelt Video store in Roosevelt Center in 1992, which he sold in 2002. He married College Park-born Mimi. Their daughters are Savannah, 10, and Miranda, who will be 6 in August.

# Ottilie’s 100th Celebrated in Fla.

Ottilie Van Allen, former Greenbelt “Outstanding Citizen,” celebrated her 100th birthday with members of her Maryland church there to celebrate with her. Some of them made the trip to Florida where Ottilie lives in a nursing home; two had recently moved to Florida. Greenbelters who made the trip were Mary Carson, Marjory Donn and Marge Owens. About a dozen Maryland friends were there. The youngest was little Ottilie Tyler who came with her parents.

Before the celebration friends bought meal tickets and took turns sharing a meal with Ottilie.

When the big day came Ottilie’s daughter-in-law Norma Van Allen arranged a program that included singing by folks from the nearby American Legion. If Ottilie could not hear all the warm wishes given to her, she was aware that her friends were there. Her friends said she looked “wonderful.”

The program ended with her Paint Branch friends singing “Spirit of Life” – the song that Paint Branchers sing at the end of their service – a fitting end to a happy few days.

At the video store, he had a guitar repair/restoration shop. Five years ago, he apprenticed himself to then 79-year-old Bill Loveless at his Savage Mill workshop. “But I really wanted to build my own guitars,” he explains. To contact him log on to [www.hallmarkguitars.com](http://www.hallmarkguitars.com)

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road,  
Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)  
*Welcomes you to our open,  
nurturing community*

May 23, 10 a.m.  
Super Sunday  
"Stand on the Side of Love"  
by Rev. Linda Olson Peebles, minister  
of UU Church, Arlington  
Barbara Wells ten Hove,  
Jaco B. ten Hove,  
co-ministers



## GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org) [greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net](mailto:greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net)

Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor



Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am

Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm

Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm

*"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"*

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	8:45 a.m.	Fellowship
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail [myholycross@erols.com](mailto:myholycross@erols.com)

*"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"*

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
301-474-9410

SUNDAY

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am

Wed. Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
Third Friday, Games Night	7:30 pm



HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE  
[www.gbmg-UMC.org/mowatt](http://www.gbmg-UMC.org/mowatt)

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

May 23, Ascension Sunday Aldersgate Sunday  
Sermon: "Unfasten the Shackles"  
Traditional Service

# A Special Treat for Moms



PHOTOS BY JAMES GIESE

The Greenbelt Community Church Mother’s Day Tea held on May 8 was considered a great success by all those who attended. Our own News Review staffer Judy Bell above (right foreground) was there with her grand-daughter Brooke Bailey. The church social hall had



been adorned with the finest decorations and china. The all-male wait staff served an extensive variety of teas, sandwiches and sweets. At left, sporting a black chapeau, Linda Edwards saluted the camera with her pre-tea glass of pear sparkler garnished with a fresh raspberry.

## MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.

Saturday 5 p.m.

Daily Mass: As announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, Pastor

Rev. R. Scott Hurd, Pastoral Associate

Part Time Ministry

## ST. HUGH’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Md.

## Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads

Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

[www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/](http://www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/)

Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

*"A church of the open mind, the warm heart,  
the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."*



## St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road  
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)  
301-262-3285 | [rector@stgeo.org](mailto:rector@stgeo.org) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

Sundays:	8:00 am	Simple, quiet Mass
	9:00 am	Christian education for all ages
	10:00 am	Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
	1:30 pm	Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

Did  
you  
know?

"Islam is the fastest-growing religion in America, a guide and pillar of stability for many of our people . . ."

— Hillary Rodham Clinton,  
Los Angeles Times

All of us have seen and heard the negative images portrayed about Islam and Muslims in the media. Did you know that the number of people accepting Islam as their faith after 9/11 has increased despite the negative imagery? Have you ever wondered what it is about this faith that is so attractive? Find out for yourself. For a FREE information packet on Islam, contact 1-877-ISLAM91 or email [muslimguide@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimguide@hotmail.com) or visit [www.islam-guide.com](http://www.islam-guide.com).



Catholic  
Community  
of Greenbelt  
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building



## Nursing Home Mold Stops Acquisition

by Elaine Skolnik

The Little Sisters of the Holy Family are no longer interested in acquiring the vacant Greenbelt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center building off Greenbelt Road. According to Russell Shipley, an attorney representing the group, an inspection of the facility revealed excessive amounts of mold in the building interior. This was the key factor for the Little Sisters’ decision not to proceed with their plans to buy the four-plus acre property.

In a September 25, 2003 memo from Greenbelt’s Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze to City Manager Michael McLaughlin, Craze had noted that at the time the Little Sisters operated several centers in the Washington area “which have been sold and operations [will be] consolidated in the Greenbelt Center.”

Affiliated with the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, the Little Sisters planned to renovate the entire center. According to Craze, “They would operate a congregate living/nursing facility and rehabilitation.”

The Little Sisters’ plan for the vacant facility was compatible with the desires of the then city council, as Craze reported “that this building [would be] returned to use as a housing/nursing/rehabilitation facility.”

### Developer Interests

Shipley told the News Review that several developers have shown some interest in the property, which is zoned R-18 medium density apartment (18-20 units an acre). However, rental or condominium apartments appear to be on their drawing boards, not a nursing and rehabilitation center. Apartment use would no doubt require the demolition of the existing facility.

In the event a developer comes forward with plans for a nursing or rehabilitation center, a special exception for this use would again be required since the special exception for the closed facility expired after 120 days of non-use as a nursing center.

### History

The Greenbelt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has been closed since December 21, 1998, following a cut off of Medicare and Medicaid funding by federal and state regulators. This action followed charges of numerous quality-care violations at the center, leading to almost a year of inspections by the state, surveys, a consent agreement and litigation.

The center was operated by Northern Health Facilities, Inc., a subsidiary of Extendicare Health Services of Milwaukee. Some believed at the time that the federal government acted too hastily in ordering the facility closed and should have allowed the federally-appointed manager more time to correct problems identified in earlier surveys. However, when the owners went to U.S. District Court in Greenbelt to request a temporary restraining order on the federal order to close, the request was denied.

Eighty-two nursing home patients were then relocated to other facilities in the area.



# City Information

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a **PUBLIC HEARING for Monday, May 24, 2004, 8:00 p.m.** CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

#### GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2004-2005

REVENUES	
Taxes .....	\$14,482,500
Licenses & Permits .....	708,300
Revenue from Other Agencies .....	839,300
Service Charges for Current Services .....	1,756,000
Fines & Forfeitures .....	812,500
Miscellaneous Revenues .....	131,200
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES .....</b>	<b>\$18,729,800</b>
Appropriation of Fund Balance .....	0

EXPENDITURES	
General Government .....	\$1,650,100
Planning and Community Development .....	728,800
Public Safety .....	7,562,800
Public Works .....	2,311,000
Social Services .....	429,600
Recreation and Parks .....	4,014,300
Miscellaneous .....	118,400
Non-Departmental .....	498,600
Fund Transfers .....	1,412,500
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....</b>	<b>\$18,726,100</b>

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGETS FOR OTHER FUNDS	
Building Capital Reserve Fund .....	\$63,000
Cemetery Fund .....	1,800
Debt Service Fund .....	927,900
Replacement Fund .....	283,300
Special Projects Fund .....	81,000
Temporary Disability Fund .....	55,000
Unemployment Compensation Fund .....	6,000
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS .....</b>	<b>\$1,418,000</b>

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS	
Capital Projects Fund .....	\$1,156,500
2001 Bond Fund .....	2,302,000
Community Development Block Grant Fund .....	100,000
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS .....</b>	<b>\$3,558,500</b>

ENTERPRISE FUNDS	
Green Ridge House .....	\$1,020,000

*The Public Hearing will be held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD. This is the second of two Public Hearings on the budget and is scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2004. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All citizens of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the entire budget. If special accommodations are required to make this meeting accessible to any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Deaf persons are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail the City Clerk at kgallagher@ci.greenbelt.md.us. Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., or at the Greenbelt Library, 11 Crescent Rd., during normal business hours. The budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.*

Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk

### OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.  
Vacancies exist on the:

Advisory Committee on Education  
Park & Recreation Advisory Board  
Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee  
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

### Meetings for May 24-28

Monday, May 24, 8:00pm, **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING/ PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AND CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE**, at Municipal Building. *(live on Channel 71)*

Wednesday, May 26, 8:00pm, **Council Work Session, Roosevelt Center Merchants (stakeholder)** at Greenbelt Community Center.

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

is seeking nominations for the annual Beautification Awards. Do you know where there is outstanding landscaping worthy of recognition? The property can be residential, commercial, publicly or privately owned. Any person or group maintaining property in Prince George’s County can be nominated. If you have any questions or would like a nomination form, please contact Charmane Truesdell at 301-490-4462. All entries must be received by May 28, 2004.

### CITY JOB OPENINGS

**MAINTENANCE WORKER III** – Valid MD Class “B” CDL w/good driving record; minimum 4 years experience as semi-skilled laborer in street maintenance, traffic control signage; operate variety of vehicles, machines and equipment; ability to understand oral and/or written instructions; perform heavy manual labor for extended periods, often under adverse weather conditions. F/T \$11.79/hr + benefits.  
**TEMPORARY LABORER** – \$8.00/hr. Approx. 9-month period. To assist Refuse/Recycling Crew and fill in on other crews as needed. Experience as laborer in public works, construction, landscaping, or related field. Valid MD driver’s license. M-F, 7:30am-4:00pm.  
**CRISIS INTERVENTION COUNSELOR** – ½ time. To provide emergency and on-going counseling services involving domestic violence, rape, suicide, family conflict and juvenile crime. Work in close collaboration with local Youth & Family Services Bureau and Police Dept. Requires BA in social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy or related field and min. 2 years post-graduate experience in family or crisis counseling. \$17.25/hr. w/pro-rated benefits.  
**INCLUSION CAMP COUNSELORS**- The Greenbelt Recreation Dept. has Inclusion Camp Counselor positions available. Hrs. 8:30am-5:00pm M-F June 22 - Aug. 20. Requirements: flexibility, 18+ yrs. and exp. w/ individuals w/ disabilities. Salary: \$7.00/hr negotiable DOE. For more info call 301-397-2208.  
**The City of Greenbelt is an Equal Opportunity Employer.** Apply in person at: City of Greenbelt Personnel Office, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt; or download the Employment Application from [www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us), or call our job-line at 301-474-1872 to request **required** application be mailed to you.

### GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

**MUNICIPAL ACCESS 301-474-8000: Monday, May 24 at 8:00pm:** City Council Meeting/Public Hearing on Budget and Constant Yield Rate (live) **Tuesday & Thursday, May 25 & 27: 10am & 6pm** “Ask the Expert-Medicare, Medicaid, Wills & Trusts ” **7:30pm** “It’s Municipal Government 2004” **8:00pm** “Replay Council Meeting”  
**PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, May 26th & 28th: 7pm** “Future View” **7:30pm** “Greenbelt Filmworks Festival” **9:15pm** “Democratic Club Meeting”

### GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND FRIDAY, JUNE 4th-SUNDAY JUNE 6th

*Celebrating Greenbelt’s 67th Year!*  
*Enjoy a fun-filled weekend with your family, friends and neighbors! Look for a full schedule of events in next week’s News Review or visit Greenbelt CityLink at [www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us)!*

### INVITATION TO BID

The City of Greenbelt, Maryland, invites sealed bids for furnishing the following:

**Two 10-Ton Roof-Top Heating & Air Conditioning Units**  
**One 8.5-Ton Roof-Top Heating & Air Conditioning Unit**

These units are to be installed on the roof at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center, 101 Centerway, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Interested bidders may pick up a bid specifications package for Bid 2004-3 at:

City of Greenbelt Finance Office  
25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Please call the Public Works Department at (301) 474-8004 regarding bid submission questions. Bids must be **RECEIVED** no later than 6/11/04 at 11:00 a.m. Bids will be opened publicly at 11:15 a.m. on 6/11/04.



## BUDGET continued from page 1

contended, remained unresolved.

Staff proposed removing the camera now and installing a new, more sophisticated camera at a later date at another intersection based upon traffic studies showing that a camera would be useful in catching violators. At the same time the camera housing could be left in place so that motorists might think a camera was still in use. If determined feasible, a new camera might then be installed at a later date. This proposal would have saved the city \$20,000 in the next fiscal year.

The two new members, in light of city budget constraints, agreed to staff’s proposal. Councilmember Edward Putens sided with Roberts to keep the camera in position until such time as a better site could be found, noting that the cameras had not been installed for the purpose of raising revenues. Davis, who claimed to be the swing vote on red light cameras, wound up once again siding with Putens and Roberts. As a result, budget expenditures were increased \$20,000.

### Personnel

Recognizing that city forces were increasingly being asked by council to take on new tasks, council agreed to add or strengthen several positions. In the Department of Planning and Community Development, a half-time office associate position was increased to a full-time job. Council also agreed to add a fourth inspector in Code Enforcement, this one to have a broad range of duties including enforcement of skateboarding regulations and animal control on weekends.

In the Police Department, council added another officer to work primarily in Springhill Lake. Previously, AIMCO, owners of the apartment complex, had agreed to pay half the cost of an added officer. The city had hoped to get a grant for its half of the cost but that idea fell through. The budget was increased by \$80,000 for

the new officer and equipment with the expectation that AIMCO would reimburse the city for half the costs.

Greenbelt CARES received funding for an additional part-time crisis intervention counselor. Recreation was granted another full-time recreation coordinator to provide strengthened supervision of facilities on the weekend. The added cost of \$42,000 was partially offset by a reduction of \$7,000 for part-time staffing. Council decided on the lower priced coordinator instead of the staff-preferred facilities supervisor.

Public Works received no added personnel. However, to help out the existing crews added funds were provided for contractual work to maintain city facilities, perform landscaping work in subdivisions and remove trees.

### Other Groups

GATE (Greenbelt Access Television) received an increased contribution of \$5,000 over that proposed in the budget. This was less than the \$8,700 GATE requested. Council could still change its mind and add the \$3,700 before final budget adoption. A grant of \$13,000 was given to the ACE Reading Club to fund a part-time volunteer coordinator position.

Unsurprisingly, the amount of contributions requested by volunteer groups performing activities beneficial to the city was fully funded, increasing that budget by \$3,300. Council also provided \$10,000 as a contribution to the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum as a partial effort to help that group meet its challenge grant in the hope that the moneys needed could be fully realized by the fund drive underway.

Because staff realized that it had underestimated electricity costs now that caps on rates were being removed, council added \$37,000 to the budget. Also added was \$600 as a contribution to Council of Governments (COG) for a housing assistance program.

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

the CPU.

Other residents and business owners from Old Greenbelt also spoke in favor of retaining the retail post office where it is, citing the “walk-ability” of Greenbelt as one of the city’s main attractions, the historical significance of having the post office in the city center, the fact that a CPU would not offer full services and the importance of the post office to the vitality of Roosevelt Center.

Some expressed concerns over the permanence of a CPU, given that it would be tied to the prosperity and business decisions of the business owner who contracted for it. Others were concerned about the accessibility to the new facility for people in the city center since not all services would be available at the CPU. Davis pointed out that the CPU would still be “walk-able” and that The Bus route includes the Greenbelt East location.

Sheldon Goldberg, resident of Windsor Green and member of the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC), was present in the audience. He spoke in favor of the option recommended by city staff.

\$10,000 was added to provide lighting for the Greenbelt Community Center stage. City annual contributions to reserves for equipment replacement and building repair were each increased \$25,000.

The council spent considerable time deciding how much to increase inspection fees for rental property. Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze recommended increasing the fees by \$30 per unit for rental apartment complexes and \$60 for individual residences rented out by their owners. This would bring city fees in accord with those in other communities, Craze said. McLaughlin felt that the fee increases should be phased in over a period of time.

### Inspection Fees

Council went back and forth on the issue of inspection fees before deciding to increase the apartment fees by \$20 and individual unit fees by \$35. Davis expressed concern that the increased costs would be passed through to the renters.

A proposal to install planters in Roosevelt Center in order to provide for blooming flowers was supported by Putens. However, when Craze and others raised concern about the impact of such structures on the design plans developed by Landscape Architect Sharon Bradley-Papp with considerable community input, Putens withdrew his support.

### Pizza

In the middle of the work-session council took a break to fill up on pizza, soda, brownies, cookies and dips. Davis invited city staff and citizens in attendance to the feast, as well as the television audience. However, no at-home viewers were observed running in the door to accept the mayor’s invitation.

After the last decision was reached by council, Davis expressed her expectation that later this year the city would find that there was a silver lining for its fiscal concerns instead of the current lead lining. She thanked the staff for its efforts and said, “We are putting our necks out on the line, but staff gave us good information and justification for the needs.”

He pointed out that the move would free up a number of parking spaces now occupied by postal trucks in the rear of the Center.

### Limited Choices

After hearing some of the ideas against moving the retail post office from the Center, Councilmember Edward Putens reminded all those assembled that this is not a new issue and that the USPS has been talking to city officials for years about the need for expansion and increased security for its trucks. He remembered that USPS officials were considering closing the Greenbelt Post Office altogether and relocating its services to Glenn Dale.

Putens expressed appreciation to Congressman Steny Hoyer and others who made sure funds were budgeted for the new facility and said city councilmembers, past and present, had worked hard to find a suitable site in order to keep the post office within the city limits. While there was talk of two operations in Greenbelt, there were no promises made, Putens said.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said he is confident he will still be able to get postal services at the Center and he thinks a CPU will offer a business a chance to be re-invigorated. People who come into a store for postal business will have an opportunity to look around for other purchases. The business will also receive some revenue from postal sales. While the Co-op is not interested, there have been inquiries from at least one other Center business owner. He made the motion to go with staff recommendations.

Construction on the new facility could begin within three months and be completed by next summer, about the time the lease on the current post office building expires.

### Fitness Center Fees

In another agenda item, Putens introduced for first reading a resolution to increase by 50 cents daily admission fees at the Aquatic and Fitness Center. According to written remarks by staff, this change will raise approximately \$20,000 in additional revenue. If adopted after its second reading, the resolution would go into effect with the opening of the season on May 29.

### Woodland Conservation

In response to a request by Greenbelt City Council, Prince George’s County Councilmember Douglas Peters had sent his proposed legislation on the Woodland Conservation Policy Document to council for comment. Currently developers are requested, but not mandated, to preserve trees on-site rather than to mitigate woodlands off site. Developers now are also not required to submit evidence that more strict forms of conservation cannot be accomplished before making use of less desirable methods, from an environmental point of view. The city was seeking to make the county’s woodland conservation policy stricter and more binding on developers.

The proposed legislation submitted by Peters clarifies what activities are permitted in woodland conservation areas with specifics on tree removals on property that has already been developed.

Putens made a motion, which carried unanimously, to respond to Peters with city support for the intent of the draft bill but also clarifying that the bill as written would not accomplish a particular goal

of the city. This goal would make developers more accountable for more closely following the procedure outlined in the county woodland conservation policy before permitting them to use less stringent methods of tree or woodland conservation. Roberts provided a second to Puten’s motion but said he did not think the current proposal improved anything.

### Legislative Initiatives

Council also discussed items to submit to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) in response to MML’s annual request for statewide legislative initiatives. Assistant to the City Manager David Moran was present and encouraged council to submit only its top two issues to MML for consideration. By limiting submissions to two, Moran thought there would be a better chance of their being selected by MML’s Legislative Committee.

Council agreed to submit municipal electricity aggregation as one of the issues, since rate caps for electricity expire this summer and increases of up to 16 percent are expected.

If staff determines after consulting with MML staff and others that statewide legislation is the appropriate remedy, the other issue will be addressing the problem of increasing premiums for Worker’s Compensation from the Injured Workers Insurance Fund. Rate increases appear by city staff to be unrelated to the amount of claims by the city.

Putens’ motion to submit these two items received unanimous support from council.

### Legislative Update

Earlier in the evening council heard an update from members of the 22nd Legislative delegation. Senator Paul Pinsky, Delegates Justin Ross, Anne Healey and Tawanna Gaines and County Councilmember Douglas Peters were present to participate in the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) 10th Annual Student Awards. The delegation stayed after the awards program to address council.

Senator Pinsky outlined the highlights of the last state legislative session. He said the budget, and slot machines had dominated the session. He had read a glowing report recently on the fiscal condition of Maryland in the Washington Post but had not seen numbers that would justify those assessments. Spending will continue to overcome revenue in the future, he said.

Pinsky does not consider slot machines good public policy and is not in favor of legalizing them, but he said they are “still knocking on the door.” Even if slots were approved, he said, it would be several years before their effect were felt. His proposed legislation would close tax loop-holes currently exploited by corporations as an alternative means of generating revenue but acknowledged that the governor has another view.

Pinsky said he also hoped increases in the transportation trust fund would go towards more mass transportation but admitted that Governor Ehrlich wants to put more support toward roads, including the ICC.

The mandate for Thornton bill funding will mean less money for local governments. All members of the delegation, as well as Greenbelt City councilmembers agreed that the coming year would “be tough.”

### Council's Tentative Changes To Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year 2005 Final Budget Worksession May 17, 2004

#### Revenues

FY 2005 Proposed Budget	\$18,729,800
	Additions
Additional tax increase (1 cent)	135,400
Inspection fees	100,000
Additional Highway User	62,000
AIMCO contribution for additional police officer	40,000
Adjusted Total Funding	\$19,067,200

#### Expenditures

Proposed FY 2005 Budget	\$18,726,100
	Additions (Deletions)
Electricity increase – all departments	\$37,000
Increase of contribution to GATE	5,000
COG Housing contribution	600
Planning office associate (half-time to full-time)	26,500
Add 4th inspector	40,000
Additional police officer (½ cost)	80,000
Cost to move one red light camera	20,000
Facilities maintenance contract work	30,000
Contractual work - landscaping	15,000
ACE Reading Club	13,000
Additional half-time crisis intervention counselor	24,000
Recreation coordinator	42,000
Reduce center assistants	(7,000)
Stage lighting at Community Center	10,000
Contribution groups	3,300
Contractual work - tree removal	6,000
FOGM challenge grant	10,000
Reserve appropriation	(64,300)
Fund transfer	50,000
Total Additional Expenditures	\$341,100
Adjusted Total Expenditures	\$19,067,200



GREENBELT CONSUMER  
**CO-OP**  
SUPERMARKET  
PHARMACY  
  
*"Your Local Full Service  
Supermarket"*

121 CENTERWAY, ROOSEVELT CENTER

**Farm Fresh Produce**  
  

Super Sweet Corn  
White-Yellow-Bi-Color  
5/\$1<sup>00</sup>

Fresh Express Ready-To-Use Garden Salad  
16 oz. Bag  
**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

Sweet Red Ripe Whole Seedless Watermelon  
\$4<sup>99</sup> Each

Season's First California Cherries  
\$2<sup>99</sup> lb.

Russet Potatoes  
\$1<sup>99</sup> 10 lb. Bag

California Broccoli Crowns  
\$1<sup>99</sup> lb.

**Fresh Quality Meats**  
  

Chef's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef  
\$1<sup>49</sup> lb.

Chef's Fresh Whole-In-Bag Boneless Pork Loin  
7-8 lb. Average  
\$1<sup>99</sup> lb.

Chef's Fresh Beef Value Pack Boneless Top Sirloin Steak  
\$4<sup>99</sup> lb.

Hatfield Meat Franks  
Original-Reduced Sodium  
79¢ lb.

Fresh Perdue Value Pack Chicken Leg Quarters  
49¢ lb.

Fresh Lean Pork Flat Spare Ribs  
\$1<sup>99</sup> lb.


**PATRON APPRECIATION DISCOUNT DAY**  
**WEDNESDAY MAY 26th**  
5% Discount To All Customers On All Purchases Except Stamps, Metro Fares, & Prepaid Phone Cards.

**DAIRY**  
Kraft Individually Wrapped Sliced Cheese Singles 2/\$3<sup>00</sup> 12 oz.  
Land-O-Lakes Butter Quarters \$3<sup>49</sup> 1 lb.  
Shurfine Grade A Large White Eggs 89¢ Dozen  
Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese 99¢ Reg.-1/3 Less Fat 8 oz. Block

**DELI**  
Shurfine Deli Gourmet Cooked Ham \$2<sup>69</sup> lb.  
Shurfine Deli Gourmet American Cheese \$3<sup>99</sup> lb.  
Shurfine Deli Gourmet Oven Browned Turkey Breast \$4<sup>49</sup> lb.

**FROZEN**  
Hanover Vegetables 5/\$5 Selected Varieties 16 oz.  
Banquet Chicken Entrees 2/\$5 Assorted 12-16 oz.  
Shurfine Lemonade -or-Fruit Punch 3/\$2 Assorted 12 oz.  
Cool Whip Dessert Topping 99¢ Assorted 8 oz.

**HEALTH & BEAUTY**  
Aim-Pepsodent Toothpaste 99¢ 6 oz.  
Listerine Mouthwash \$4<sup>49</sup> Assorted 1 Liter

**SEAFOOD**  
Marder Bay Frozen Scallops \$3<sup>99</sup> 1 lb.  
Viking Frozen Potato Crunch Pollock Fillets \$2<sup>79</sup> 1 lb.

**NATURAL & GOURMET**  
Zone Perfect Nutrition Bars 99¢ Assorted 1.7 oz.  
Asian Gourmet Tea Bags 99¢ Assorted 12.3 oz.

**BAKERY**  
Fresh Baked Pies 2/\$6 Apple-Cherry-Blueberry 8 Inch  
Fresh Baked Hamburger-or-Hotdog Rolls 8/99¢

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Kraft Barbecue Sauce Assorted 16-18 oz. **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**  
Ragu Pasta Sauces Assorted 16-26 oz. **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**  
Country Time Lemonade Mix Makes 8 Qts. 19 oz. **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**  
Shurfine Soda Assorted 24 Pk.-12 oz. cans \$3<sup>99</sup>

Campbell's Original Pork Beans 11 oz. 4/\$1  
Purex Value Size Liquid Laundry Detergent 128 oz. 2/\$6  
Kraft Mayonnaise Regular-or-Light 32 oz. **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**  
Hefty Plates & Bowls Assorted 16-60 Ct. **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**  
Kingsford Charcoal 20 lb. \$5<sup>99</sup>

Heinze Squeeze Ketchup 24 oz. 99¢

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Inglenook Wines Assorted 1.5 Liter \$5<sup>69</sup>  
J.W. Dundee Honey Brown Lager 6 Pk. 12 oz. \$4<sup>99</sup>  
National Bohemian Beer 6 Pk. 12 oz. Cans \$2<sup>89</sup>  
Freixenet Spanish Sparkling 750 ML \$7<sup>99</sup>

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# POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Assault

6900 block Hanover Parkway, May 13, 7:47 a.m., a tow truck driver reported that he was attempting to tow a vehicle from a private parking lot for not having a residential parking sticker. As he was hooking the vehicle to the tow truck, another man approached him and pushed him several times. The suspect then got into the vehicle about to be towed, struck the tow truck driver and fled the scene in the vehicle. He is described as a black male in his fifties, with brown and gray hair. The suspect vehicle is described as a 2003 Toyota 4-door with Florida tags KCR1P. The tow truck driver was transported to Prince George’s Hospital for treatment.

### Attempted Abduction

5500 block Cherrywood Lane, May 13, 2:43 p.m., a youth reported that he was walking in the area of the Sun Trust Bank at Greenbelt and Branchville Roads when he saw that he was being followed by a vehicle. He entered the CVS Pharmacy on Greenbelt Road, at which time the suspect allegedly walked in the store also. The youth ran from the store across the street into Beltway Plaza Mall. A short time later he left the mall and was walking in the 5500 block of Cherrywood Lane when the man approached him on foot and grabbed him. The youth advised that he was able to fight the suspect off and flee the scene. The suspect is described as a black male in his twenties, 5’8” with a stocky build, black hair and buck teeth, wearing a short-sleeved shirt. He sustained a small cut to his right hand. Investigation is continuing.

### Carjacking

6100 block Breezewood Drive, May 11, 1:14 p.m., a man reported that he was cleaning a vehicle in a parking lot when he was approached by another man who produced a handgun, ordered the victim to get on the ground and took the vehicle, which had the keys in it and was running at the time of the incident. The suspect is described as a black male, 18 to 20 years of age, 5’6”, 160 pounds with black hair, wearing a red shirt and black jeans. The vehicle is described as a black 1995 Mitsubishi Eclipse 2-door, Maryland tags MBN008.

### Attempted Robbery

5900 block Springhill Drive, May 11, 10:39 p.m., a man reported that he was in his residence when he answered a knock at his door. As he opened the door two men forced their way in, one striking him in the face with what appeared to be a semiautomatic handgun. A struggle ensued, after which both suspects fled the scene on foot. They are described as a black male, approximately 18 years of age, with black hair in plaits and brown eyes, wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans and a black male, 28 to 29 years of age with a thin build, black hair in plaits and brown eyes, wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans.

### Burglary

9100 block Edmonston Terrace, May 8, 10:28 p.m., unknown person(s) entered the residence by forcing open a bedroom

window. Two video game players, video games and a portable DVD player were taken.

6100 block Springhill Terrace, May 9, 6:52 p.m., unknown person(s) entered the residence by breaking out the living room window. Nothing appears to have been taken, but the residence was vandalized.

9100 block Edmonston Terrace, May 9, 10:28 p.m., unknown person(s) entered the residence by forcing open a bedroom window. A video game player and two video games were taken.

7500 block Mandan Road, May 10, 2:31 p.m., unknown person(s) entered the residence by forcing open the basement door. A personal computer and two DVD players were taken.

5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, May 13, 4:31 p.m., a woman reported that she came home and observed two men load property from her residence into a vehicle and flee the scene. Entry to the residence was possibly gained by way of an unlocked sliding glass door. One of the men, described as a white male, 5’11”, 150 pounds, with blonde hair, left the scene in the suspect’s vehicle, a green Ford Taurus bearing unknown Maryland tags. The second man, described as a black male, bald, left the scene in a vehicle described as a maroon SUV.

### Trespass

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, May 7, 2:15 p.m., two nonresident men were arrested and charged with trespass and disruption of school activities after they were observed inside the school without permission. They were released on citation pending trial.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, May 11, 2:43 p.m., two nonresident youths were arrested for trespass and disruption of school activities after they were located inside the school and found not to be enrolled there. They were released pending action by the School Board and the Juvenile Justice System.

### Disorderly Conduct

Greenway Center, May 7, 9:19

p.m., a nonresident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Police were requested to escort a patron from Jasper’s Restaurant after he allegedly brought an alcoholic beverage into the establishment in violation of restaurant policy. While being escorted from the restaurant, the patron began shouting profanities and continued to do so in the front parking lot. He was arrested when he refused to cease his actions and was released on citation pending trial.

### Vehicle Crimes

The following six vehicles were stolen: a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria 4-door, May 7, from the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, recovered the next day by the Metropolitan Police, no arrests; a gray 2001 Toyota Camry 4-door, Maryland tags LCR482, May 7, from Beltway Plaza Mall; a 2000 Ford truck, May 7, from the 7900 block Ora Glen Drive, recovered the same day by the Metropolitan Police, no arrests; a 1991 Toyota Camry 4-door, May 10, from the 7800 block Chartwell Place, recovered May 12 by the Prince George’s County Police, no arrests; a 2002 Dodge Intrepid 4-door, May 10, from Beltway Plaza Mall, recovered May 12 by the Hyattsville City Police, no arrests; and a 2003 Chevrolet Monte Carlo 2-door, May 12, from Beltway Plaza Mall, recovered the next day by the Metropolitan Police, no arrests.

Seven vehicles were recovered, three by Greenbelt police and four by other police departments. No arrests were made in any of the recoveries.

Vandalisms to or thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall, 6200 block Springhill Court, 9100 block Edmonston Court, 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive, Ivy Lane and Ridge Road, 500 block Crescent Road (two incidents), Southway and Ridge Road, 6700 block Lake Park Drive, 7200 block Mandan Road, 7500 block Mandan Road, 7600 block Hanover Parkway and 7300 block Morrison Drive.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.



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May 1 through November 20

## New Bay License Plate Available

The Chesapeake Bay Trust has announced that a new full-color “Treasure the Chesapeake” license plate is now available to the public. The new bay license plate, featuring a blue crab and heron on a deep blue background, can be purchased at any full-ser-

vice center of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) or ordered by mail. Forms for obtaining the plate by mail can be printed from the website at [www.MarylandMVA.com](http://www.MarylandMVA.com). Visit the MVA or call 1-800-950-1MVA (1682).

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**CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting  
Public Hearing on FY 2005 Budget  
and Proposed Real Property Tax Increase  
Municipal Building Council Room  
May 24, 2004 – 8:00 p.m.**

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Presentations

- Memorial Day Poppy Presentation – Unit 136, American Legion Auxiliary
- National Small Cities and Towns Day – Proclamation

#### Public Hearing

FY 2005 Budget and Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

**Petitions and Requests** (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

**\*Committee Reports** (Items on the Consent Agenda marked by \* will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

### LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Repeal Resolution 960 and to Establish Admission Fees and Pass Rates for theGreenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center, Effective May 29, 2004 (2nd Reading)

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Citation Collection Services from Data Ticket, Inc., of Newport Beach, California (1st Reading)

### OTHERBUSINESS

- Astronomy Club Observatory – MOU
- Award of Purchase – Cherrywood Lane Street Resurfacing
- \* Letter of Intent – Purchase of Four Police Vehicles
- \*Adoption of Board of Appeals Resolution for Variance #04-001-V
- \* Resignations from Advisory Groups
- \* Appointment to Advisory Group

### MEETINGS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail [kgallagher@ci.greenbelt.md.us](mailto:kgallagher@ci.greenbelt.md.us) to reach the City Clerk.



MUSEUM continued from page 1

dren ample green space with walking paths, over a dozen playgrounds, one of Maryland's first public swimming pools and centrally located tennis courts, ball fields, a man-made lake with row boats and a gymnasium. The town hired three full-time recreation staff to organize activities for the early residents.

The exhibit features three-dimensional artifacts from the museum's collection, such as sports and exercise equipment, patent medicines, pamphlets, cookbooks, advertising and other ephemera of the period using "scientific" evidence to promote ideal body weights, concepts of nutrition and methods of gaining physical fitness.

On display will be two home beauty regimens will be on display that guided women through weeks of beautifying fitness rituals to cure bodily defects. The development of sportswear is shown through uniforms, bathing suits, photographs and a hands-on primer on sportswear fabrics of the period.

This exhibit replaces the earlier show called "Izzy!" featuring the cartoons of Isadore Parker. It closed on May 3.

Related Lecture

In conjunction with this exhibit the museum is sponsoring a free lecture and slideshow titled "Women in Sports: Play Day to Elite Competition, 1923-1953." The program will take place on Tuesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room 201.



City Manager Roy Braden presenting glove to Bob Sommers, bat boy for the Greenbelt Shamrocks baseball team, 1940.

In this lecture and slideshow Dr. Joan Hult, professor emerita, University of Maryland, will show how the three decades from 1923-1953 were pivotal for women's sports in America. Women shed their corsets and began to participate in both competitive and recreational sports.

The Great Depression years of the 1930s brought new opportunities for women in sports through New Deal programs that spread recreation activities to communities across the nation. Women and girls began to participate in sports such as bowling, basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis and swimming.

During World War II, "Rosie the Riveter" emerged as a symbol of a strong, capable worker in the industrial labor market, who had to play the role of both mother and father. By the end of the war women had a new sense of self-confidence in their physical fitness unknown to previous generations.

After the war, as men returned to their jobs and women were

supposed to return to the home, women fought a cultural battle to stay on the ball field and keep sports and recreation a part of their lives.

Hult is a sports historian who has written and spoken extensively, both nationally and internationally, on the history of American women in sports and athletics. Her most recent book is called "A Century of Women's Basketball: From Frailty to Final Four."

She is currently completing "The Legacy of Women's Collegiate

Athletics: Struggle for Equality, 1950-80." She has served as a consultant for HBO shows and ESPN films on the history of women in sports.

The Greenbelt Museum sponsors a bi-monthly lecture series that is free to the public. The lectures explore aspects of the history of the Great Depression and World War II era.



This WPA poster promoted swimming pools.

Cell Phones Needed by Aid Coalition

Secure the Call, a nonprofit, all volunteer organization that distributes free emergency 911-only cell phones, needs help. The organization is a local coalition of over 50 organizations including police and sheriff's departments, domestic violence departments, senior citizen groups, school crossing guards, school bus drivers and any other group that demonstrates a need for emergency 911-only cell phones. Phones are collected, wiped clean of any service numbers and ad-

dress books and then reprogrammed for 911-only service. They are given back to coalition partners who distribute them free to the community.

Currently there is a scarcity of phones to meet the demand. People are asked to consider setting up a program to collect phones within their community or organization, church, synagogue or apartment building.

For more information visit the website [www.securethecall.org](http://www.securethecall.org).

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DR. JAY MCCARL

Dental Implant Symposium, Boston University.  
Fellow in Academy of General Dentistry.

DR. DAVID J. MCCARL

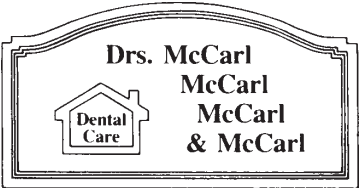
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Volunteers Needed for WWII Reunion

Volunteers are needed for the National World War II Reunion, to be held outdoors on the National Mall from Thursday, May 27 through Sunday, May 30. This four-day event coincides with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial and is being produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in partnership with the American Battle Monuments Commission. Volunteers are needed to assist in all aspects of the reunion.

For information contact volunteer coordinator Diana Grose at 202-275-2003, or via email at dgrose@si.edu or visit the web site at [www.folklife.si.edu](http://www.folklife.si.edu).

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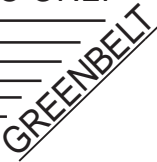


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**CICADA RESCUE FEDERATION** – Helping our red-eyed friends since 1876! There's no doubt about it - we've had a rough first week. The CRF Management Team has been under immense pressure, as there were approximately 659,486,983,175.4 more injured/emotionally disturbed cicadas than our projected figures had accounted for. If you would like to support the cause, please mail/deliver any of the following items to CRF, 12M Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770: 1) Small 1 in x 2 in bed sheets for the hospice facility, 2) Hook-and-ladder fire engine for treetop counseling, 3) Photographs of your cicada friends - for inclusion in our "Cicada Celebration" Album. Also, please plan on attending our "Cicada Memorial March" – commencing Friday, June 25, 8 p.m. at the Roosevelt Center. For more information call 301-982-9715 or 301-474-6708. "NO CICADA LEFT BEHIND!"

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## YARD/MOVING SALES

**MULTIFAMILY YARD SALE** – 14 Court Laurel Hill, May 22. Kids toys, clothes, books, more. 8 - 11 a.m.

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE** – Sat., May 22, 9 - 1, raindate: Sun, May 23. Northway, Woodland Way, Forest Way.

**MULTI-FAMILY** – Sat. May 22, 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. 10 Court Southway.

**YARD SALE** – Sat. 5-22, 9-1, 2 Court Eastway.

**YARD SALE** – Sat. May 22, 8 - 1, raindate May 23, 3 Woodland Way.

**MOVING SALE** – Sat. May 22, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. 5F Plateau Place.

**YARD SALE** – Sat, 9-2, corner White Birch and Hedgewood in Boxwood. Lots of good stuff.

**YARD SALE** – Sat. May 22, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. 112 Rosewood Dr., Boxwood. Baby toys and accessories. 301-474-6919

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## Police Budget Up Slightly with No New Staff

Telling Greenbelt City Council that “It’s hard to tell where you’re going unless you know where you’ve been,” Greenbelt Police Chief James Craze introduced his department’s now obligatory Power Point® presentation for the fiscal year 2005 budget to the council. A show of old time departmental photos accompanied by music of the times ensued followed by a review of departmental activities for 2003, programs underway and objectives to be accomplished.

Craze was pleased to report a significant decrease in the number of crimes against persons over previous years (down 23.4 percent) even though these crimes had increased slightly for the county. While arrests were also down 10 percent, they were comparable to the recent historic average. Crime clearance rates were 14 percent, compared to 9 percent for the county. While vehicular accidents had increased slightly, the number of personal injuries had declined, although there were three fatalities.

### Budget

The total proposed police budget is \$7,387,600, more than a third of the entire general fund city budget. It is only slightly increased from the previous year and no new personnel were proposed. Last year an additional officer was added by the council on the basis that half of the cost of the officer would be paid for from a grant obtained by the city and the other half by the owners of Springhill Lake. The officer would be assigned to that area of the city. However, the grant was not obtainable and the added officer was not employed. City Manager Michael McLaughlin did not propose the position in this year’s budget, although AIMCO, the owners of Springhill Lake appear to be still willing to fund half the cost.

Without that position the department’s authorized strength of sworn officers will be 53. There are also 15 other personnel, mostly communication specialists (police dispatchers) assigned to the department.

### Laptop Computers

Of greatest concern to the council was the problem in getting purchased laptop computers to be used in the squad cars operational. The Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) raised this concern at its meeting of May 3 with the council, noting that the computers were purchased 19 months ago and were still not in use, thereby endangering officer safety. Craze noted that a staff report requested by the council was being prepared and would be submitted shortly. (The report was provided to council on May 13.)

Craze at the meeting and in the subsequent report outlined a long list of problems that prevented implementation. It seems that technology has been advancing more rapidly than the city was able to keep up with, causing the city to modify its hardware and software on several occasions in order to gain access to the state’s data base. Craze, while not faulting the city’s new information technology (IT) person, said that a part of the problem was the need to have an IT person in the department knowledgeable with police procedures and needs and who did not also

have to deal with all the other technical problems of the city. However, he did not recommend one at this time given the city’s budget constraints. Instead, he said that with the departmental strength now being close to full due to the filling of vacancies, it would be possible for him to assign an officer to work with the city’s IT director in finally resolving the problem. Craze told council that progress was being made “even though it doesn’t show.”

At the FOP meeting councilmembers had asked why they had not been made aware of this problem impacting officer safety. McLaughlin told the council that the question of officer safety was never brought to his attention and, although slow, he was told that progress was being made. There was not an issue to be brought before the council.

Craze said that everything the police command does is in the interest of officer safety. However, he did agree that it may be possible to seek and obtain information more quickly on the computer than radioing through a police dispatcher. In his subsequent report to council, Craze called the claim of an officer safety issue as “unfair” and “inflammatory.” “The statement imparts a callous and uncaring attitude that is not indicative of the people involved,” he said.

Councilmember Edward Putens told the chief that he should just proceed to assign a police officer to help finish the job and not come to council for approval. Councilmember Rodney Roberts, however, said that he felt the chief should come to council if he was to reassign a patrol officer, as he didn’t want to see any officer taken off the street. Craze assured him that he would maintain a full complement of patrol officers.

In his later report Craze noted that committing an officer full-time to IT duty and giving this highest priority may not solve the problem “so long as we are subject to unknown problems and challenges beyond our control” which may cause the project to suffer delays.

Craze also noted that council would need to approve purchases of newer protocols at a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the laptops to communicate with the wireless system as the ones now on hand will no longer be supported by Verizon Wireless. Also, it will need to approve the purchase of license rights to gain access to the Prince George’s County Sheriffs’ Department warrant system at an estimated cost of \$15,000.

### Red Light Cameras

The second contentious issue in the budget review was the elimination of a red light camera that is not paying for its costs in the amount of fines received from violators. Staff, for the third time, has proposed its elimination. This time staff also proposed installing another, more sophisticated camera at a new location following a study to determine where such an installation would be feasible. McLaughlin suggested using one to monitor left turn violations from Greenbelt Road eastbound to Hanover Parkway northbound where complaints of left turns being made from a through lane have been noted. Removing the current camera now and replacing it with one later that will pay its own

way would provide a \$20,000 savings.

Roberts expressed his dismay with the way the camera program is going declaring that the council should just do away with it. “It’s pretty petty to balance a budget this large with a red light camera,” he said. He expressed fear that the state would conclude that this program is a revenue program instead of a safety program and force the city to discontinue it. He proposed that this camera not be removed until a new location was decided upon.

A problem with the current cameras is that they fail to detect violators that creep through an intersection, as can be the case when traffic is jammed up. This is given as the reason why staff observations of violations have not materialized in the one camera finding violators. Also, the cameras are not sufficiently sophisticated to recognize some turning movement violations as can be done with newer ones.

### Captains

The last significant issue discussed, which did not have any impact on the budget, was the chief’s recommendation that the positions of lieutenant be retitled as captains without a change in pay. Calling the position of lieutenant in a police department passé, Craze said that in a department Greenbelt’s size the positions second in rank to the chief should be called either captain or colonel. While agreeing to the change in titles, McLaughlin, proposed that the position of lieutenant be retained at a lower grade for the promotion of officers who replace the three current lieutenants who are to become captains when they leave the department. After a three-year trial in that grade new lieutenants could then be promoted to the position of captain. This proposal has not set well with the FOP whose members would prefer to be directly promoted from sergeant to captain without a trial period. Not being a budgetary issue, this will be resolved when the council considers a reclassification proposal to be submitted by the city manager.

## County Work Hours Change, Leaving a Firefighter Gap

by James Giese

At a budget worksession at which Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Chief Brian Rudy and Assistant Chief Chris Fleshman expressed satisfaction with the amount budgeted by the city for equipment replacement, Rudy advised the council of a recent decision to change work shifts for county-paid firefighters who work in volunteer stations daytime from four 10-hour days a week to five 8-hour days. For Greenbelt this means there will be no paid firefighters on duty from 3 to 5 p.m., effective May 17.

Rudy said it would be very difficult for volunteers, who work daytime paid jobs, to cover this time period. City councilmembers expressed concern, noting that this was rush hour, a time when a lot of accidents occur requiring ambulances and equipment.

Rudy had expressed his concerns to the county. The best answer he could get was from Battalion Chief Victor Ferreira, who advised him to keep records of calls during those hours for which the volunteers could not respond. If those figures demonstrated a problem, the county could reconsider. Rudy asked the city council for its help.

Last year the county considered removing all paid firefighters from the Greenbelt station. With the aid of the city council and County Council-member Douglas Peters this was not carried out. However, Rudy told council that Branchville, which is a first-run responder to part of Greenbelt, lost its paid firefighters and is now all-volunteer. Berwyn Heights, another department responding to Greenbelt calls, will also lose paid firefighters from 3 to 5 p.m. While much concerned, Rudy expressed hope that the neighboring departments could respond to ambulance calls if Greenbelt was unable to do so, or, if not, that West Lanham Hills could fill in. Fleshman told council that the county was understaffed and that about one-third of the

900 firefighters authorized are unavailable for duty because of vacancies, injuries or other reasons.

Council agreed to City Manager Michael McLaughlin’s recommendation to send a letter of severe concern to the county and to Peters. Councilmember Edward Putens also proposed that council consider the matter again around the first week of June.


### Budget

Based upon adopted past council policy, the yield of a one-cent tax levy is allocated to the Greenbelt volunteer department for equipment purchases. The budget for fiscal year 2005 now under council review is for \$55,000. The money allocated is not necessarily spent every year but accumulated until funds are sufficient to replace an item of major equipment.

The next purchase is to occur in 2005 to replace a 1995 Quality pumper truck. Because this truck has a good trade-in value, Rudy told council that sufficient funds should be on hand. A county-owned ambulance is to be replaced in 2007 with one to be owned by the department. Another fire truck is to be replaced in 2009.

The volunteer department, which is not a part of the city government, receives most of its funding from Prince George’s County with additional funds raised during fund drives. However, it is housed in a city building on Crescent Road and receives city assistance in purchasing equipment.

Other fire companies also respond to emergencies in Greenbelt. Sometimes they are closer to a Greenbelt fire or accident scene than is the Greenbelt company. Likewise, Greenbelt responds to calls outside the city. Other departments that may respond in Greenbelt on a first-run basis are Branchville, Berwyn Heights and West Lanham Hills. Beltsville, College Park, Riverdale Park and Glenn Dale may also respond when needed.



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